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TITLE: Liposome gel composition and method

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CLAIMS:

It is claimed:

1. A liposome gel composition comprising

(a) an aqueous suspension-medium, whose conductivity is no more than that of a fully ionized univalent electrolyte whose concentration is between about 5-10 mM, having a selected pH between about 3.5 and 10.5, and

(b) suspended in the medium, at a concentration of between about 7 to 25 weight percent total lipid, liposomes composed of (i) at least about 5 weight percent charged vesicle-forming lipids which contribute a common net charge to the outer surfaces of the liposomes, at the selected pH, and (ii) the balance of neutral vesicle-forming lipids.

2. The gel composition of claim 1, wherein the aqueous medium contains a zwitterionic compound whose isoelectric point is substantially at the selected pH.

3. The gel composition of claim 2, wherein the zwitterionic compound is a neutral amino acid, and the selected pH is between about 5.5 and 8.5.

4. The composition of claim 3, wherein the concentration of zwitterionic compound is such as to produce a substantially isotonic medium.

5. The composition of claim 1, wherein the charged vesicle-forming lipids include phosphatidylglycerol, and the neutral vesicle-forming lipids include phosphatidylcholine.

6. The composition of claim 5, wherein the liposomes are composed of between 20-40 weight percent each of phosphatidylglycerol, phosphatidylcholine, and